



Te Kura Māori o Ngā Tapuwāe

NAU MAI HOKI MAI KI TE KURA

Tuesday 2nd February 2021

Tēnā koutou ngā mātua/kaitiaki o ngā tamariki o Te Kura Māori o Ngā Tapuwāe, ngā mihi nui ki a koutou mō te tau hou rua mano rua tekau mā tahi.

A special welcome to all of our new students and families, we look forward to working with you throughout this year. We hope you enjoyed the holiday and are looking forward to greater things in the year 2021. This letter is to inform you of some of the things you need to know over the next couple of weeks. We have often been asked why our newsletters are written in English – this is because not all of our families are able to understand Te Reo Māori so we want to ensure that all of our important information is received accurately by everyone.

2020 Achievements

It is with pleasure that I inform you that our school had a 100% pass rate for NCEA in 2020. Every senior student passed and achieved either NCEA Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3. We'd like to thank the students for persevering through the pandemic and Covid-19 Lockdowns to achieve this result. I'd also like to extend my sincere thanks to the teachers who not only provided extra support during but also post-lockdowns to ensure everyone stayed on track. I'm grateful that our tripartite arrangement with the students, supportive whānau and staff of the school has led to our students exceeding 'normal' expectations for the general 2020 NCEA student. I'd also like to inform you that all teachers are establishing a robust 'Home Learning Plan' in case we go into lockdown again this year. This plan will once again require independent commitment from students, support from parents and expertise and advice from teachers. Our aim is to ensure we are as ready as possible for any drastic change so our 2021 students can also come out with a 100% pass rate but we need everyone's support. Inā te mahi he Rangatira!

School Closing Times

The annual first week 2:00pm early closure will cease on Friday and normal bell times will resume next Tuesday 9th February. Our normal school finish times are 2:40pm on a Monday and 3pm every other day of the week.

School Uniform

Please remember that summer uniform is the correct uniform for the term. Therefore, all students must wear sandals - Year 1 - 6 may wear coloured sandals but Year 7 - 13 must be in plain black sandals. School cardigans, jerseys and jackets must not be worn on hot days so please keep them at home.

The Kura Tuatahi staff also implore that you name every article of clothing your child wears to school. As you will know when our little ones take something off they usually get left there. It is extremely difficult to find owners for items if they aren't labelled and we have received a number of calls over the years from parents who are upset that their child has misplaced an article of clothing and what are we going to do about it. Unfortunately, we can only do what is within our power which is return clearly labelled clothes to their owners. There are 'Lost Property' baskets that you and your child are more than welcome to look through if something is misplaced and has not been returned.

Sleep

Our staff have noticed that a number of students (all ages) are very tired at school and not just this afternoon as you may expect during this first week back. The sleep experts state that under 13 yr olds need between 9 – 11 hours of good, deep sleep per night and 14+ yr olds need between 8 – 10 hours per night. It is also extremely important that they get enough sleep to maintain good physical and mental health. Therefore, we ask that you ensure your children are getting to bed (and to sleep) at a reasonable hour so they can cope and focus on their tasks here at school.

Ka Ora, Ka Ako - Healthy School Lunches Programme

We are pleased to inform you that we have been selected to join the Ka Ora, Ka Ako - Health School Lunches Programme. This will mean that from next Tuesday 9th February we will be providing lunches to all students free of charge. Therefore, from next week onwards you will only need to provide morning tea for your child or they could have the fruit pottles, scroggin etc offered by KidsCan and the daily 'Fruit in Schools'.

We would also like to remind you that we will also have the Breakfast Club operational from 8am until 8:25am each day. This began this morning so please encourage your children to come and have baked beans on toast and/or weetbix and fruit etc.

Sports

We have already begun musters and training sessions for a number of sporting codes including Ki o Rahi and Waka Ama for our Kura Tuarua students. Please note that if your child is participating in a school sport that requires after school trainings they will receive a newsletter with a permission slip that needs to be signed and returned before they can participate.

School Buses

This is a friendly reminder to all families whose children catch the Ihumātao/Pukaki, Otara, Manurewa or Papakura buses that you should've paid two weeks in advance and stay this way throughout the duration of the school year. There are a number of students wanting places on a couple of the buses so please maintain the agreement regarding payment so you do not lose your place.

All students need to know that there is no casual riding on the school buses. Therefore, if you have not signed an agreement that you have a confirmed space on the bus then you must not ride it. The only person who can give you permission for 'casual riding' is Mā Stirling. If she does not grant permission then you will not be allowed on the bus.

Please contact us at the office on 09 551 6161 if you have any queries about the information provided above and we will be happy to assist.

Ngā manaakitanga,



Arihia Stirling
PRINCIPAL